



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLIANCE FOR AGRICULTURE ADVANCEMENT

A partnership between USDA and member institutions in Illinois, Indiana,  
Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio & Wisconsin

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLIANCE FOR AGRICULTURE ADVANCEMENT  
Sunday, September 29 – Tuesday, October 1, 2019  
Northeast Community College  
Norfolk, Nebraska

### AGENDA

*All meetings will occur on the Northeast Community College campus, Lifelong Learning Center*

#### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

Attendees: Faculty and Advisory Council Representatives, SARE Representatives

Optional: Other Partner Representatives and Guests

(Lunch on your own. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.)

12:00 pm Check-in, Lifelong Learning Center (Atrium)

12:30 pm Welcome to Nebraska + Introductions, Northeast Community College (Suite E/H)

12:45 pm SARE Grant Overview + Compliance Reminders (Suite E/H)

1:00 pm Producer Outreach: Challenges + Best Practices (Suite E/H)

1:45 pm BREAK (Atrium)

2:00-4:30 pm Faculty Track (Suite E/H)

- Show + Tell Favorite Soil Health Lessons
  - o Each college takes 15 minutes to share impactful soil health lessons; bring hard copies or electronic lesson plans to share (materials, supplies, hands-on activity, and assessment)

2:00-4:30 pm Board Working Session w/Jimmy Bramblett (Suite C/D)

*For presidents or their designee. Advisory Council members are welcome to attend and observe*

- Cooperative Agreement Overview
- CIG Grants and other funding opportunities
- Visioning Session – Short-term and Long-term desired impacts for NRCS and for Colleges
- Alliance Expansion/Growth – Renewed Commitment and MOU
- Future Advocacy Priorities

4:30 pm Report out on afternoon activities (Suite E/H)

Attendees: All

5:00 pm Optional: SharePoint Site Training, Northeast Community College (Suite A)

6:00 pm DINNER (Suite F/G)  
Speaker: Del Ficke, Regenerative Producer  
Manager, Ficke Cattle Company-Graze Master Genetics  
Attendees: All Participants and Invited Guests

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

7:15 am Check-in, Lifelong Learning Center (Atrium)

7:30 am Continental Breakfast (Suite E/H)

C2A3 Consortium Meeting with NRCS State and Local Conservationists  
Attendees: State and Local Conservationists, Faculty, Presidents, Advisory Council  
Optional: Other Guests

8:00 am Welcome and Introductions, Hosted by Northeast Community College and Richland Community College (Suite E/H)

8:15 am Presentation of Cooperative Agreement – Mike Robotham and Richelle Perazich, USDA – NRCS (Suite E/H)

1. Overarching Goals
2. How it works
3. Degrees of Freedom vs. Hard Parameters
4. Questions

9:00 am NRCS Cooperative Agreement Spotlights (Suite E/H)

9:00-9:15	Illinois Central College
9:15-9:30	Ivy Tech Community College (IN)
9:30-9:45	Northeast Iowa Community College
9:45-10:00	Q&A/Discussion

10:00 am BREAK (Atrium)

10:30 am Northeast Community College (NE) Partnership with NRCS (Suite E/H)

- Nebraska NRCS training program
- Natural Resources AA/AS Program
- Northeast's Online Portal with Natural Resources Districts
- Future collaborations with Pheasants Forever, Nebraska Game & Parks, Sierra Club, etc.

11:00 am State Roundtables to discuss cooperative agreement plans and other collaborations (Suite E/H)

11:45 am Report Out (Suite E/H)

12:15 pm LUNCH (Suite F/G)

1:15 pm BUSINESS MEETING, Dr. Valdez, Chair (Suite E/H)  
Attendees: Advisory Council Representatives, Presidents, Lead Faculty  
Optional: Partner Representatives, Faculty, State Conservationists, Other Guests

- Introduction of board and officers

- FY2018-2019 Summary of Goal Outcomes – Advisory Council Executive Committee (Drs. Crews, Burds and Kruse)
- 501(C)3 Formation Updates – Dr. Tracy Kruse
- Advocacy Updates, Priorities, and Discussion – Dr. Jim McKenney
- NRCS Grant Update and Discussion – Dr. Tracy Kruse, Northeast Community College, NE
- SARE Grant Update – Dr. Vicki Jeppesen and Dr. Vicki Pietz
- Soil Health Partnership Update – Dr. Tracy Kruse
- New Business

1:15-5:00 pm    OPTIONAL: Offsite Tours (Depart from Lifelong Learning Center, Door #7)  
Attendees: Other Faculty and Guests  
1:15 pm Depart campus for offsite tours  
2:00 pm Lindsay Manufacturing Tour  
3:40 pm Reigle Feedlot Tour  
5:00 pm Arrive Northeast Community College

3:00 pm            BREAK (Atrium)

3:30 pm            About Northeast/ College Tour (Depart from Lifelong Learning Center, Door #7)  
Attendees: All are invited

6:00 pm            DINNER (Suite F/G)  
Speaker: C. Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D., President & CEO, Soil Health Institute  
Attendees: All Participants and Invited Guests

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1**

7:15 am            Check-in, Lifelong Learning Center

7:30 am            Lite Breakfast

**8:00-11:00am    President’s Track -- Board Meeting (Suite C/D)**

Attendees: Presidents or Voting Designee. Advisory Council members are welcome to attend and observe.

Annual Meeting of Voting Members

- Election of Directors (for terms expiring in 2022)

Annual Meeting of Directors

- Election of Officers

Regular Meeting

Review of Minutes October 2018

- Report Out of Sunday and Monday discussions (SARE, NRCS Discussions)
- Continuation & Expansion of Board Visioning
- FY 20 Goals & Recommendations
- Review of Next Meeting Dates, Locations and Leadership Roles
  - o Suggested conference calls (December, April, September)
  - o In-person meeting, Washington D.C. - February 10-11, 2020
  - o Annual Meeting Hosts – Central Lakes (2020) and Clark State (2021)
  - o October 4-6, 2020? and October 3-5, 2021?

8:00-11:00am Faculty Track (Suite B and depart from Lifelong Learning Center, Door #7)

Attendees: Faculty, Partner Representatives

Optional: Advisory Council Representatives, Other Guests

Faculty Workshops and Professional Development – Northeast Community College

- College Tour
- Field Tour

- o Hands On From Hardware to Harvest  
by Chance Lambrecht (Precision Planting Field)

This presentation takes place on a field used to teach elements of precision planting and the management decisions that affect the crop throughout the growing season. Also, compaction's effect on root development and emergence will be assessed at this field day session.

- o More Than Just Soil Health: Improving Decision Making for Long Term Benefits  
by Robert Noonan & Sarah Sellin (NCGA & SARE Field)

This portion of the tour will show faculty applied research taking place on two separate fields where a variety of interventions are taking place to improve soil health on sandy soils. Projects provide content for a variety of agriculture classes and emphasize the importance of decision-making in crop production and agroecology.

11:00 am LUNCH (Suite F)

12:00 pm Departures



Dr. Wayne Honeycutt leads the Institute's programs to safeguard and enhance the vitality and productivity of soils. He previously served for 5 years as the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology with USDA-NRCS in Washington, DC, where he led programs in technology acquisition, development, and transfer to ensure NRCS conservation practices reflect the latest scientific advances for conserving our nation's soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. He served as a Research Soil Scientist for 14 years and a Research Leader for 10 years with the USDA-ARS New England Plant, Soil, and Water Laboratory, where he led and conducted interdisciplinary research on carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus cycling and sustainable cropping systems development. In those roles he led national research teams for predicting nutrient availability, developed procedures adopted by ARS for enhancing national research coordination, and received regional and national awards for technology transfer.

He is a graduate of the "Mastering the Art of Public Leadership" executive development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC and USDA's "Performance Excellence and Knowledge" executive development program. He has served on assignments to the U.S. Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, USDA-ARS National Program Staff, and USDA-ARS Area Office Staff.

Dr. Honeycutt's commitment to agriculture is rooted in his experiences with raising tobacco, corn, and other crops on his family's 120-acre farm in Metcalfe County, Kentucky. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and Master's degree in Soil Science from the University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in Soil Genesis from Colorado State University. He was the 2018 recipient of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the Soil and Water Conservation Society.



Del Ficke is the manager of Ficke Cattle Company – Graze Master Genetics®. He also connects family farms and ranches with the resources they need to do proper legacy planning. With more than 35 years of experience as both an agriculturist and cattleman, Del has developed a one-of-a-kind trademarked breed of composite cattle, the Graze Master.

Del has spent the last several years transitioning his farming operation back to what he calls, “a more holistic, sensible and profitable approach that is both modern and historically-based in both concept and philosophy.” He is restoring the soils to their more natural state and has transformed commodity-driven cropland back into native pastures as well as adopted a mob-grazing approach to cattle raising. Del has sold cattle genetics as well as consulted throughout the nation and internationally.

In addition to his production agricultural pursuits, Del has experience managing a medical clinic in Lincoln, Neb. and he has also held numerous leadership positions in agricultural associations and in agricultural business. Del and his wife Brenda live on the fifth-generation farm near Pleasant Dale, Neb. with their daughter Emily, son Austin and his wife Alyssa and their daughter Attley.